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ENTERTAINMENT

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PEOPLE — COMICS

RADIO & TELEVISION
By Joan Irwin

CTV schedule weak on Canadian content

This fall's CTV schedule was released this week — a first draft like all the others, since a certain amount of shuffling takes place between now and September as programs are moved from one time period to another in the interest of competition.

There will be three new Canadian productions in this area — two network editions of 'CTV Reports,' one a full hour and one a half hour replacing 'W 5' and 'Maclear,' plus a half-hour local CFCF production called 'Dialogue Quebec.'

Of the three Canadian-produced variety shows introduced last season, two — 'Julie' and 'Stars on Ice' — have been renewed, and 'The David Steinberg Show' has been dropped. Also cancelled after ten seasons is 'Pig and Whistle'.

There are nine new American series in the schedule, some to be seen on the full CTV network while others (plus some established U.S. series) have been bought for local distribution by CFCF.

Only four Canadian productions will be on view each week between 8 and 11 p.m. during prime time. They are the two editions of 'CTV Reports,' 'McGowan & Company' and 'The Editors' — two and a half hours a week out of a 21-hour prime time total.

The amount of Canadian production in the CTV-CFCF schedule is far from impressive, and it appears that an improvement in the quality of current affairs series means an almost total dependence on U.S. programming in the entertainment field.

Computerized network

Both editions of 'CTV Reports' will be produced live to allow for topicality, with newsman Peter Trueman, recently of Global TV, as host. He will be joined by co-host Bruce Phillips in the half hour Thursday night series which will be devoted entirely to Canadian affairs.

The hour-long Sunday night edition will cover both national and international events and will make use of a computerized nationwide phone-in system to tally instant votes on major issues. Quebec correspondent André Payette (who has been host of the CBC French network series 'Le 60' this season) will report regularly, as will Tom Gould, William Stevenson, Michael Maclear and Art Buchwald.

CFCF's new 'Pulse' anchorman Gordon Martineau will be host of 'Dialogue Quebec.' The series will feature monthly interviews with Premier Levesque which will be conducted by Bob Benedetti and a guest interviewer. During the period when the federal Parliament is in session, the program will also include excerpts from Prime Minister Trudeau's weekly press conferences.

The only other new Canadian productions are a variety show for teenagers called 'Disco' scheduled from 6 to 7 p.m. on Saturdays, and 'Solid Gold' — a musical game show based on the Bingo principle in which the viewing audience will be able to participate by buying cards and competing for cash prizes.

As for the imports, the most controversial among them is bound to be 'Soap,' a half-hour comedy series spoofing the soap opera genre in more or less the way 'Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman' did. The first two episodes, which apparently involve adultery, transvestism and nymphomania among other activities, were screened recently for ABC's affiliated stations, leaving many station managers worried about how the series will be received by audiences outside the big cities.

'Operation Petticoat'

'Soap' is said to be well written and well performed by a cast featuring Richard Mulligan, Sally Kemp, Billy Crystal and Jennifer Salt. ABC is so pleased with it that there's a possibility it could expand to two episodes a week if the public takes to it in a big way.

Then there's 'Operation Petticoat', based on the 1959 Cary Grant-Tony Curtis movie about a Second World War submarine which rescues a group of army nurses. Stars are John Astin, Richard Gilliland and Yvonne Wilder.

A Disneyish CTV-NBC co-production is 'Search and Rescue,' featuring a naturalist-conservationist and his family (cast not yet announced) who, according to the publicity, "train animals to search and rescue humans stranded in situations where men and machines cannot penetrate."

Owls, raccoon and otters are mentioned, and so is the "warm family life of the Donnells." It's scheduled for telecast at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and ought to be a hit with young people and some of their elders as well.

CFCF itself (not the CTV network as a whole) has acquired seven shows it hasn't had before.

One is the new 'Mickey Mouse Club' from the Disney studios which will run at 4 p.m. on weekdays. Two — 'Man from Atlantis' and 'Eight is Enough' — were recently introduced in the U.S., while the others — 'Laverne and Shirley,' 'Family,' 'Wonder Woman' and 'Match Game' — are already familiar to most viewers.

'Man from Atlantis' is a sci-fi series from the creators of 'Star Trek' and 'Mission: Impossible' starring Patrick Duffy and Belinda Montgomery. 'Eight Is Enough' features Dick Van Patten and Diana Hyland as the parents of eight children in a series based on Tom Braden's best-selling book.

Patriote summer glitters with stars

CHANTEUSE EDITH BUTLER
Performs this month at Le Patriote

SPOTLIGHT
By Juan Rodriguez

Summer would not be complete in the Laurentians without 'Le Patriote's' summer series of Quebecois singers at Ste-Agathe.

The schedule for the famed boite-a-chanson is practically a compendium of the province's top stars. The relaxed nature of the summer series allows the artists to test out new songs and routines that may well end up the fall-winter season's 'grandes spectacles'.

Le Patriote kicked off its ninth summer season last Saturday night with Louise Forestier, back from raves in Nice, France, and a successful promotion tour in Paris.

This month, Saturdays will feature stars Jean-Guy Moreau, Plume Latraverse, Monique Leyrac and Edith Butler. Then come the longer engagements: Jean Lapointe (June 28 to 3 July), André Gagnon (July 5 to 17), Jean-Guy Moreau (July 19 to 24), Jean-Pierre Ferland (July 26 to Aug. 7), Ginette Reno (Aug. 9 to 21), Yvon Deschamps (Aug. 23 to Sept. 4).

The season winds down with the following Saturday night attractions: Lapointe, Pauline Julien, Edith Butler again, and Diane Juster.

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Meanwhile, Acadian folksinger Butler in Paris has denied a series of statements about Quebec politics attributed to her, saying, "I don't consider myself qualified to judge governments and their politics."

Butler was quoted in a news service interview last week as saying proposals by the Parti Quebecois government on language policies were drastic and disregarded the rights of English-speaking minorities in a manner similar to the treatment of French-speaking Acadians in her native New Brunswick.

"I will not accept being used as a means of criticizing the Quebec government," the singer's Paris statement said. Her remarks in the lengthy interview were "unrecognizable, so greatly were they taken out of context and contrary to what I said."

She had been interviewed in Paris on her way to take part in a song festival at Spa, Belgium.

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Free Concert, featuring some rising local musicians, takes place Sunday at 1 p.m. at Mount Royal Park (Park Ave. near Mt. Royal St.). Diverse music is promised by Ross Holloway, Roger Rodier, Big City Band, Chocolate Speedway and Peter Chalmers.

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Two veteran local rockers grinding out their niches in the rock world are Corky Laing, former drummer of the group Mountain, and Peter Thom, of Galdston and Thom.

Laing was the drummer of the local Beatlemania group, Bartholemem Plus Three, in the mid-1960s, but during Mountain's rise proved himself to be a tougher, harder version of Ringo Starr. Laing stuck to simple basics, occasionally adorning them with a neat turn of phrase, and when amplified louder he was perfect for the heavy-rock that Mountain typified.

Laing is out there on the street alone now, accounting for a debut solo album, entitled 'Makin' It On the Street' (Elektra Records), which deals mainly with the trials and tribulations of a rock musician.

Thom started out about the same time as Laing, having sung on the mid-1960s CBC television show 'New Generation.'

He scuffled around New York City for awhile, resulting in a debut album and tenure as lead singer and rhythm guitar for The Joffrey Ballet Orchestra. He got together in 1975 with Phil Galdston (who, among other things had produced albums for comedian Robert Klein) and they proceeded to win the American Song Festival of 1975 for their composition, 'Why Don't We Live Together,' which has subsequently been recorded by Barry Manilow.

Now comes the duo's first album, 'American Gypsies' (Warner Bros. records), and a new band and tour to promote the record.

No doubt about it, Peter Thom and Corky Laing are two Montreal musicians who ventured outside the local scene and are still hanging in there.

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Michel Pagliaro will throw the first pitch before the Expos take on the St. Louis Cardinals at Olympic Stadium on Friday.

It's only fitting that the city's premier rock 'n' roller should also be the first, along with disco queen Nanette Workman, to open the stadium to rock music. Both 'Pag' and Nanette and their musicians have been around the local rock scene longer than the ball club, and their pregame concert — starting at 6 p.m. — promises to be a festive occasion.

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A tip from left-field: **Ange,** probably the most prominent rock group from France, makes its local debut at Cinema Outremont on June 11.

In Europe they are deemed amongst a handful of genuinely innovative rock groups, and it'll be interesting to compare them with the more Americanized Quebecois groups.

Following up on the Olympic Culture Program, this summer's **Jeux du Quebec** will present a series of arts presentations, including a number of shows by Quebecois musicians and singers, Aug. 18 to 28. Other featured arts are cinema, theatre, dance, photography, pantomime, choral singing and comic strips. Over 1,000 young artists will contribute to the activities.

Poudriere conquers with a grand comedy

By JULIA MASKOULIS
of The Gazette

If the next two plays in the trilogy known as 'The Norman Conquests' prove to be anything like last night's show, La Poudriere will have a triumph on its hands.

'Table Manners,' th first play in the group by British playwright Alan Ayckbourn, opened last night at the tiny theatre on St. Helen's Island and it was a true conquest — over the audience.

The production is totally synchronized: Director Robert Robinson's inspirational approach and his superbly chosen cast bring to life this comedy about a weekend in the lives of an English family.

The remaining parts of the trilogy are not based on consecutive weekends — but occur simultaneously in other parts of the same house.

The only link — the true comic catalyst — is Norman of the title, who attempts to seduce every female member in the family — his sister-in-law, his brother-in-law's wife, and even his own wife.

'Table Manners' is four scenes set in the dining-room of a victorian cottage during a July weekend. The six-character play is on one level a straight social satire on familial hypocrisy. But that is the level that provides it with content, not entertainment.

On another level it is a superbly-crafted discertation on character flaws providing the play with a wealth of humor, humane and very real humor relayed in a sugar-coated acidy text.

Jill Frappier presents us with a vulnerable, insecure and unfulfilled Annie, the first victim of the 'Norman Conquests.' Una Kay, was more distinct in her portrayal of the neurotic and uptight housewife, Sarah, than in any other role she has recently played at Poudriere.

Wendy Dawson, who is making her professional debut at Poudriere after graduating from Dawson College's professional drama program, was delightful as the executive-type wife — rational, cool and calm, except when she bumped into furniture or couldn't see people because she refused to wear her glasses.

The most endearing performance came from Len Watt's absent-minded professor — the veterinarian, Tom, whose straight-faced humor meshed with and balanced the more extroverted performance of Graham Batchelor's Reg and John Peters' utterly captivating, utterly sympathetic wildman Norman.

'Table Manners' is on view until June 4. The second play, 'Living Together' begins June 7 and plays until June 11 while 'Round and Round the Garden' runs June 14 until June 18. After that the three plays will rotate nightly for one month.

Jazz group wilts in cold 'weather'

By NIGHTHAWK
for The Gazette

Summer may normally be a time for things to bloom — but a fine jazz group wilted last night, as Montreal's fickle music audience left them in the cold.

We almost owe an apology to Toshiko Akiyoshi and her quartet for the two dozen faithful who found their way to the Rising Sun last night.

The quartet features Toshiko on piano, husband Lew Tabackin on flute and tenor sax, Mark Egon on acoustic bass and Danny Gottlieb on drums. They play contemporary be-bop and from their recordings, one *knows* they can play.

But last night, try as they may — and they certainly did — the music couldn't get off the ground. Toshiko kept wiping her face and blowing her nose, straightening her back and laying out during her husband's solos. Maybe she has the flu — she seemed to play with some powerful brakes on.

Tabackin was very voluble, but his tone was dry and his phrasing lacked the substance of a confident groove. His cascades of notes seemed to be just that, without the magic that makes jazz improvisation a dangerously beautiful thing.

Toshiko Akiyoshi has earned the praise of Oscar Peterson, who gave her her first break. She has won several awards as a composer arranger and leader of her big band. She is a sincere musician and thoroughly devoted to jazz.

The least she deserves is a chance to feel welcome by us Northern folks. Montreal is her first appearance in Canada and she'll be playing here through the week-end.

Reno awash in sound, sentiment

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ
of The Gazette

In terms of sheer technical prowess, Ginette Reno is the reigning heavyweight of Quebecois pop singers. She depends upon her pipes, she puts her body behind every word.

Reno's been at it over a dozen years, and the fruits of her labours are in evidence at Salle Wilfrid Pelletier to June 12.

Backed by a 23-piece orchestra, Reno puts on a big show. She surrounds herself with swirling bombastic arrangements that she overcomes by the force and clarity of her delivery.

The new show is touted as her most ambitious, but this is difficult to discern because her presentations over the past few years have accented the density and bulk of the arrangements.

Reno indulges in sentimentality of the Las Vegas, middle-of-the road sort. The tunes are simple, but sturdy enough to carry the heavy orchestration.

She's expansive in her sentimentality, flailing her arms and raising her voice to ward off anything but her message. Reno plunges into material like 'Evergreen' (the Barbara Streisand hit from the film 'A Star Is Born') 'Feelings' and 'J'ai besoin de vivre.' She extracts the emotional juice with crushing force very quickly during a song, with little left to hold you other than Reno's range.

She handles much more English material here than in the past, and performs a few French translations of fare like 'Good Morning Sunshine.' Even this dittie sounded heavy under Reno's attack.

Clutching a microphone she recites a touching love-lost poem; then, looking at a giant screen of her home movies of her two children, Reno puts her songs through the wringer.

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Ariadne Auf Naxos, by Richard Strauss, is a witty comedy put to a score of great delicacy and beauty. Directed by **Vaclav Kaslik**, with scenography by **Josef Svoboda**, it stars **Janis Martin, Wilfried Badorek, Costanza Cuccaro, Delia Wallis, Cornelis Opthof** and **Bernard Fitch.** Sung in English and German with the National Arts Centre Orchestra conducted by **Mario Bernardi. July 2, 8, 12**

Don Pasquale is Gaetano Donizetti's classic **opera buffa**, in which an old man takes a young wife and soon comes to regret it. Directed by **Sonja Frisell,** with sets by **Robert O'Hearn,** costumes by **Suzanne Mess** and lighting by **Nicholas Cernovitch,** it stars **Spiro Malas, Daniela Mazzucato, Rockwell Blake** and **Allan Monk.** Sung in the original Italian, with **Piero Bellugi** conducting the National Arts Centre Orchestra. **July 9, 13, 16, 20**

The Magic Flute was Mozart's last and arguably his finest opera. It is a romantic fantasy set against a backdrop of fabulous sets and costumes. Directed by **Jeannette Aster** and designed by **Peter Rice,** with lighting by **Nicholas Cernovitch,** it stars **Stuart Burrows, Patricia Wells, Rita Shane, David Holloway, Don Garrard, Nancy Hermiston** and **Alan Crofoot.** Sung in English, with **Mario Bernardi** conducting the National Arts Centre Orchestra. **July 26, 28, 30**

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